REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action of October 6, 2004, various ones of the claims were rejected for indefiniteness on the grounds that it was unclear whether the symbol"/" in the term "acceleration/deceleration was supposed to mean "and" or "or". In response, page 1 of the Specification has been amended to clarify that the term includes both speed-up and speed-down, as was already clear from the drawings. Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 has been overcome.

In the Office Action the claims were also rejected as being obvious in view of the cited Thompson and Huang patents. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of such rejection for the reasons set forth herein.

First, it is stressed that the claims of the presented application pertain to the control of the acceleration/deceleration of a stepping motor, which control is effected for N lines in response to an instruction from a CPU received with a sync signal. Also, the claims require that the motor control signal from the CPU is received with the sync signal even after the acceleration/deceleration control is ended.

The cited Thompson patent, on the other hand, discloses a color printer having a photoconductive belt which is operated so that when recording is effected, the belt is stopped and then only recording head 38 is moved to record an image of one line on the belt. Accordingly, the Thompson reference is silent as to acceleration/deceleration control of a motor, and unlike the present invention, Thompson does not disclose anything related to the object of the present claims wherein the load of the CPU on interruption is reduced during high speed process in the acceleration/deceleration control.

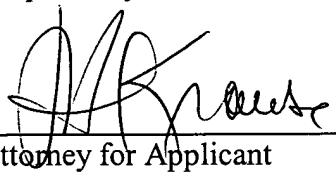
These deficiencies of Thompson as a rejecting reference are not overcome by the cited Huang reference. Specifically, while Huang discloses acceleration/deceleration control of a stepping motor, an instruction from the CPU is received only after the start time of scanning one page. Accordingly, Huang does not disclose the feature of the present claims wherein the control of a stepping motor is effected for N lines in response to a motor control instruction from a CPU received synchronously with a sync signal.

In summary, neither of the rejecting references disclose the claimed invention wherein a motor control instruction from the CPU is received synchronously with the reception of the sync signal to thereby control the stepping motor for N lines, even after the acceleration control is ended.

For these reasons, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the claim rejections, and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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